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CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to the form indicated below:

1. (currently amended) A suture clamp and/or suture retainer and organizer device for use during a surgical procedure, comprising an elongated body formed of resilient material and having a plurality of lateral slits through one surface thereof, said slits being sized to receive and grip a surgical suture, pocket means adjacent each slit for receiving and retaining a hemostat attached to a suture against being pulled through the body, and attachment means for facilitating attachment of the body to a surgical drape or other supportive surface.
2. (currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the pocket means adjacent each slit comprise a tapered pocket extending into the body to retain a hemostat in the pocket but prevent the hemostat from being pulled through the body.
3. The device of claim 2, including unique indicia means located in the body adjacent each slit and through passage for identifying each such slit and lateral passage, said indicia means being alpha-numeric or colored marks.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the body has an elongated cruciform shape, and a semi-cylindrical cross-section.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein the body comprises a flexible elongated base having a plurality of spaced pods mounted thereon, with a slit and adjacent pocket being located in each pod.
6. The suture organizer of claim 5, wherein the pods are beveled on the surface to facilitate movement of sutures into the slits, and the slits are narrower than the thickness of a suture.
7. The device of claim 1, wherein the body is made of a sterilizable material.